

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that a number of references were not included with the IDS of September 26, 2003. Duplicate copies of these references are enclosed.

The Examiner has requested Applicants to amend the specification to refer to the claim of priority recognized in the filing receipt. Applicants have done so.

Independent Claim 39 stands rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,830,874 to Mitsch et al. Specifically, the Examiner points to col. 11, lines 20-68 of Mitsch. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that the polymer described in this passage of Mitsch anticipates the rejected claims in Applicants' application.

Applicants' Claim 39 recites:

"a polymer with nucleophilic groups capped with a triazine moiety..."

Applicant's specification provides examples of polymer "capping" where during polymer chain growth, the triazine molecule (i.e., the "end capping agent") is added as a monofunctional molecule or "end capper" to stop the further reaction of a nucleophilic end group of a polymer during its polymer chain growth reaction. Endcapping agents are typically added to polymerization reactions to prevent polymer chain growth from proceeding to an undesirable high molecular weight. The Mitsch et al. reference does not include the reaction of a nucleophilic polymer end group with a triazine monomer. Instead, the reference shows the reaction of an imidoyl amidine polymer with acrylic acid anhydride to form a triazine via a cyclization reaction. In the final polymer formed, the atoms of the polymer next to the triazine moiety are not residual of a nucleophilic group. Thus the polymer does not have nucleophilic groups capped with a triazine moiety - this is simply a polymer with imidoyl amidine end groups that have been converted to triazine end groups.

To further illustrate, rejected claim 41 recites a polymer wherein the nucleophilic groups capped are hydroxyl or amino groups that would create the residues (triazine-O-R) and (triazine - N-R), respectively, both of which are not taught or suggested by the reference. The reference merely shows (triazine - CF₂ - R) which is not residual of a nucleophile reacting with triazine.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 39, 40, 41 and 42 in view of the above remarks.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0893.

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Date 4/17/05